

Wanderers' Senior Cup clash washed out by the rain

AS FEARED, Wycombe Wanderers' proposed Berks and Bucks Senior Cup quarter-final against local rivals Slough was postponed on Saturday. This means the Blues have now gone two weeks without a game.

Saturday's Senior Cup tie at Slough was called off at Friday lunchtime after an inspection by the referee who conveniently works in Slough and was able to make an early assessment.

This is another part of the continuing saga of the Rebels' new ground. The Wexham Park site was meant to be completed for the start of the season but fell behind and as a result, Slough had to play several of their early home games on neutral grounds. Recently, the torrential rain has revealed problems with the drainage system and I gather, the club have been advised by the building contractors, not to play on the pitch again this term. This, however, is almost impossible and the damage caused to the playing surface could be considerable.

On Friday, there was water standing on the pitch and the referee had no hesitation in calling the game off. It will now be played this Saturday, once again

with weather permitting. And even if the rain stops early in the week, the pitch will undoubtedly be one of the heaviest Wycombe have encountered this season.

The draw for the County Cup semi-finals was made at Rivets

By **STUART EARP**

Sports Club after the Works team had just beaten Abingdon Town, their fellow Rothmans Hellenic Leaguers. And Rivets could hardly have wished for a better draw.

They meet the winners of the Slough-Wycombe game at home and will decide later this week whether to switch the venue and play away on February 15.

Rivets secretary Mr. F. G. Stanton said: "I would have preferred to have been drawn away because then I wouldn't have been required to make the tricky decision of switching the venue".

Half the Rivets team work for the firm and their side has only

one change from last season. Last term, in fact, they won the B and B Intermediate Cup to qualify for the Senior this year. On the way to the semi-final they have already accounted for Wolverton, Burnham, Newbury, Maidenhead and Abingdon.

This draw demonstrates the quirks of football. Recently Wycombe Wanderers played two matches against First Division Middlesbrough in front of a total of over 40,000 people. Now they could travel to a works team in Aylesbury, who attract barely 100 spectators a match.

The other semi-final will be between the winners of Thatcham or Milton Keynes and Chesham or Wokingham.